

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1453
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
SATELLITE DATA FOR BIO-DIVERSITY
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the bio-diversity of the country has been assessed by using satellite data
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the results of the study are being used in planning bio-diversity conservation measures;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINSTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The National Remote Sensing Agency, Department of Space, Government of India has undertaken a programme on Biodiversity characterization at landscape level using Satellite data for the entire country in three phases. The first two phases have been completed in the year 2002 and 2006, respectively. During the first phase, the biodiversity of Western Ghats, North Eastern Region, Western Himalayas and Andaman & Nicobar Islands was successfully characterized. During the second phase, study was conducted in Central India, Eastern Ghats, and mangrove landscape of east coast. Satellite remote sensing data has been used for forest cover type and land use mapping. So far 88% of the natural landscape and 91% of forest area of the entire country have been covered.

(c) & (d) The data generated under the project has been used by different sates including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Punjab and Assam. These states have signed an MOU with National Remote Sensing Agency to use the data generated for preparation of forest working plan and defining conservation strategies for biodiversity in respective states.